

P.O. Box 5035
Marco Island, FL. 34146
www.MarcoMensClub.com

The Marco Men's Club

March 2025

Newsletter

Established 1992
A non-profit organization

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

Welcome to March Madness and I'm not talking about basketball. Season is in full swing. Traffic is crazy, restaurants are full and just try and get down the aisle at the grocery store. The Men's Club is just as busy.

Last month we had a great open lunch at Kretch's with 19 members attending. We had 32 new members along with current members at our annual New Members Breakfast on February 1st.

Lastly, we had the Sweetheart Ball at Naples Lake CC on February 22nd and I understand everyone had a great time. A big thanks goes out to our new VP **Mark Geis** and his wife **Betsy** for hosting.

The Theater Group arranged two plays, The Buddy Holly Story at Broadway Palm and The Odd Couple at ACT on Marco. The Cruise group's Far East Cruise is off for a couple of weeks of sightseeing, egg rolls, and fun.

March is going to be just as busy. We had a group head out for a Spring Training Baseball Game between the Boston Red Sox and New York Mets. Go Red Sox!! The ever-popular St. Paddies week party at Speakeasy is coming up on March 10th. The in-house Pizza Party after the March general meeting is always a good time to pig out and lastly there are two more plays planned for the last two weekends of the month; Boeing Boeing at ACT and Man of La Mancha at the Sugden in Naples.

In April we will have our last big dinner dance, The "Spring Fling Dinner Dance" at The Glades CC; this is filling up fast. The golf group will be having their Spring Golf Tournament at the Glades CC on Monday, April 28th.

Just added at the end of April is our 3rd Annual Mini Golf tournament and lunch at LaTavola.....get your foursome together as it's a fun event.

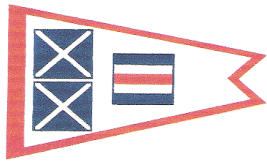
MARCH FUN FACTS

March 6,1836 - The Alamo fell to Mexican troops. The rallying cry “Remember the Alamo” heard across Texas.

March 10,1862 - The first issue of paper currency occurred as \$5, \$10, and \$20 bills.

March 18,1974 - The Arab oil embargo caused gas prices to soar 300% and a ban on Sunday sales of gas.

Mike Ballenger



March 2025

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COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY CLUB



Need help with your new iPhone, Ring camera, iPad or other device? Having problems downloading a new App? Want to learn about Artificial Intelligence? This is the place to get help! Our final meeting of the season will be March 31st at 10AM at Ori's. Spouses and significant others are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Contact **Steve Furlong** at 309-662-9101
Or stevenrichardfurlong@gmail.com.

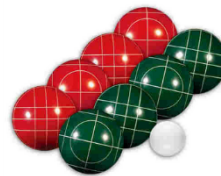
INVESTMENT DISCUSSION CLUB



This is a gathering where opinions are valued, facts are appreciated and experience is not necessary, but prized. An open and broad discussion of topics relating to investment raised by those present, is conducted. The Club meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1:30PM at the Marco Lutheran Church in the choir room, please enter through the administrative offices.

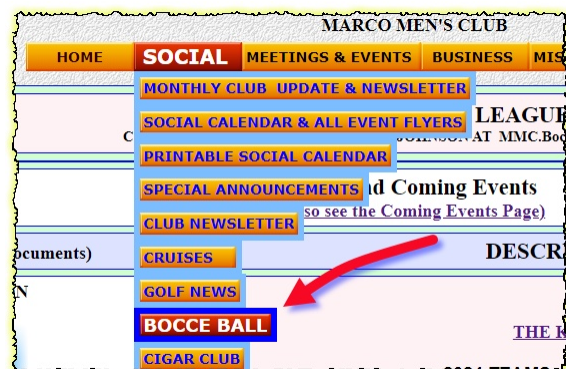
Contact **Don Koppel** Ph:856-906-4318. Meeting status will be through an eBlast the week before the meeting.

BOCCE BALL



The Bocce season started in January and is in full swing. The league has wrapped up it's 9th week with 2 more weeks to play before the annual year-end playoff tournament; followed in late March by the award luncheon. For more information, contact **Rick Johnson** at: MMCBocceLeague@gmail.com

You can always find the latest Bocce information from any page in the website by following the dropdown menu link shown in the image below.



CO-ED TRAVEL DISCUSSION GROUP



We have been receiving and evaluating the Cruise and Land Travel Preference Surveys. We continue to discuss and

evaluate current, planned and future travel including:

Cruises

Asia

Columbia and Snake River

Greek Islands and Turkey

Amazon

Danube

Discuss the results of the Cruise Expo held last month.

Land Travel

Colorado's Historic Trains

The national Parks

The April meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 in the Choir Practice Room at the Lutheran Church. Spouses/SO are invited and encouraged to attend.

Contact **Bruce Dahlquist** 847-815-9474 or dahlquistbruce@gmail.com

SPORTS UPDATE

Everblades hockey game on Wednesday March 26th at Hertz Arena, seating section 116, 16 tickets reserved, first come, first served.

Tickets \$42 each.

For more Information:

Contact, Jack Martin at 347-837-2131 or jjtpm11697@yahoo.com

HOSPITALITY

Thanks to the guys who set up the room. Chairman, **DON KOPPEL, RICH CARLSEN, DON LALLY, and LOU MAKRIS.**

MMC HATS AND SHIRTS

The order form for Hats and Shirts is available on-line on the MMC Website, under the **MISCELLANEOUS** header. Click on **CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES** to obtain Order Form and Instructions.

MMC LAND TRAVEL CLUB

**St Augustine Christmas Lights Trip
December 8, 2024**





**Sept 10, 2026 - Sept 17, 2026
Colorado's Historic Trains**

Featuring 6 Scenic Rail Excursions and 3 National Parks.

Departure September 10, 2026 for 8 days.

Tour Highlights:

14 meals: 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 4 dinners.

All hotel accommodations.

Round trip airport transfers, round trip Denver.

Rocky Mountain National Park.

Leadville Colorado and Southern Railroad.

Durango and Silverton Railroad.

Mesa Verde National Park.

Cumbres and Toltec Scenic railroad.

Royal Gorge Route railroad.

Pikes Peak Cog Railway.

Price is \$3,369 pp land only and includes land touring and all tour excursions.

Air pricing is available on request.

Optional travel protection is \$249 PP.

Non-refundable deposit \$200 PP.

With air \$349 PP.

Credit card payments only.

To book, contact Jerry Poulin at

508-868-1716 or gpsp@aol.com

For further information contact Jerry or

Tim Clune at 248-980-6142.

The travel club would welcome your thoughts, ideas and interests on trips, be it ground travel or cruises.

Contact **Jerry Poulin** 508-868-1716 / gpsp@aol.com or **Tim Clune** 248-980-6142 / tclune@gmail.com

CRUISES



THE MMC “59TH” CRUISE
COLUMBIA AND SNAKE RIVER
CRUISE
LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION
MAY 27, 2025 – JUNE 4, 2025

9 DAYS, 1 NIGHT PRE-HOTEL, 7 NIGHT
CRUISE, SAILING ABOARD
AMERICAN CRUISE LINES “5” STAR
RIVERBOAT “SONG”
FOR CRUISE ITINERARY, PLEASE
ACCESS **CRUISE INFORMATION** ON
CLUB WEBSITE.

THE MMC “60th” CRUISE
AMAZON RIVER CRUISE
OCTOBER 10, 2025-OCTOBER 19, 2025

9 NIGHTS CRUISING AMAZON RIVER
ON SEABOURNS “6” STAR ULTRA
LUXURY ALL SUITE SHIP “VENTURE”.
1 NIGHT PRE-STAY.
AMAZON CRUISING WITH AN
EXPEDITIONARY TEAM.

THE MMC “61ST” CRUISE
GREEK ISLES & TURKEY
SEPT 17, 2025 – SEPT 30, 2025

12 NIGHTS –10 NIGHTS CRUISING
GREEK ISLES & TURKEY ON
CELEBRITY SHIP “EQUINOX”.
BARCELONA, MYKONOS, EPHEBUS,
ISTANBUL (OVERNIGHT), SANTORINI,
OLYMPIA, ROME.

2 NIGHT PRE-STAY IN BARCELONA,
SPAIN WITH CRUISE ENDING IN
ROME, ITALY.

THE MMC “62ND” CRUISE
BLUE DANUBE RIVER CRUISE
APRIL 12, 2026 APRIL 25, 2026

BUDAPEST...VIENNA...DURNSTEIN
...LINZ/PASSAU...REGENSBURG...N
UREMBURG...PILZEN...PRAGUE

MMC IN PARTNERSHIP WITH S&K
TRAVEL IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
AN AMA WATERWAYS RIVER CRUISE
ON THE BLUE DANUBE RIVER
INCLUDING 7 NIGHTS ON THE RIVER
AND 2 NIGHTS IN BUDAPEST PRE-
CRUISE AND 3 NIGHTS IN PRAGUE
POST-CRUISE, DEPARTING APRIL 12
AND RETURNING APRIL 25, 2026
ABOARD THE “AMASONATA”.

WE CAN’T WAIT TO WELCOME YOU
ABOARD THIS UNFORGETTABLE
EUROPEAN CITY ADVENTURE.
SPACES ARE LIMITED.

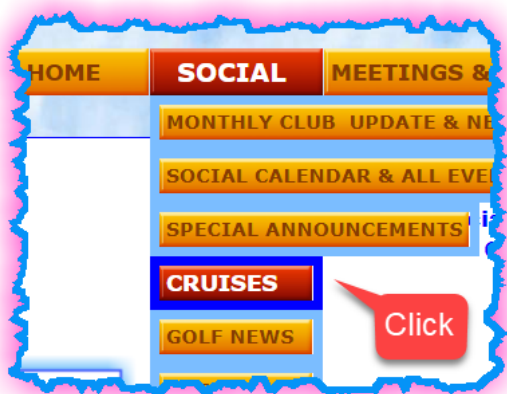
FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT
BOB BIXLER, MMC CRUISE
CHAIRMAN. 989-859-7559

Marco.Mens.Club.Cruises@gmail.com

GO TO THE CLUBS WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EACH CRUISE. USE THE DROPDOWN MENU (See Image Below) ON ANY WEBPAGE. CLICK ON “CRUISES” TO GO TO THE INDEX FOR ALL MMC TRAVEL. SELECT “OCEAN & RIVER CRUISES”. YOU WILL SEE ALL THE LATEST FLYERS, RESERVATION FORMS AND MUCH MORE INFORMATION.

...OR FOLLOW THIS LINK:

<https://marcomensclub.com/Cruises.htm>



Contact Bob Bixler at:

marcomensclubcruises@gmail.com

WELCOME TO THE NEW MMC TRAVEL INDEX

The MMC has for a very long time offered international cruises, both ocean and river. In fact, we just posted cruise #62, Blue Danube River Cruise. These have been so popular that in recent years we have expanded the Travel Options. We now have a “**CO-ED TRAVEL DISCUSSION GROUP**” that meets monthly in season and a “**LAND TRAVEL CLUB**” that sponsors a wide range of other domestic and foreign activities. They currently have a trip planned September 10, 2026; **Colorado’s Historic Trains**. More info on club website.

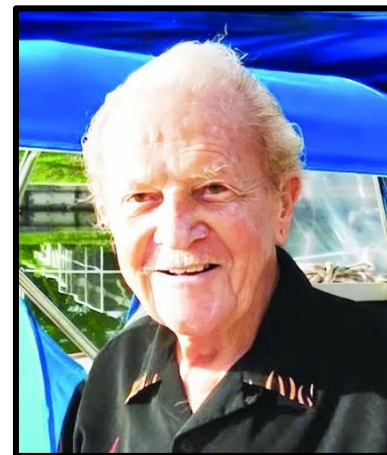
To help organize the three activities we have added a **TRAVEL INDEX** to the website. When you follow the familiar **CRUISE** dropdown, or the corresponding “Big Button” link, it will take you to the **TRAVEL INDEX** (see image below). From there you can choose the category you are interested in.



SICKNESS AND BEREAVEMENT



I am saddened to report the passing of long-time club member Don Mills. Don passed away on Saturday, February 15th, a week short of his 100th birthday.



Please contact **George Vitta** at 586-942-8056 or golflover3@yahoo.com regarding information of illness or death of members, their spouse, and immediate family. George will notify the MMC board.

March 2025

The Marco Men's Club

Speakers Calendar

Program Director Reggie Gabriel

March 12, 2025

Jonathon Little
Mosquito Control



Jonathon Little is a Southwest Florida native and serves as the Director of Communications for the Collier Mosquito Control District. Prior to joining CMCD, he served as the Media Relations Director at Lee Health, Deputy Communications Director at the agency for Health Care Administration and worked in the legislative office of two Florida state representatives. He has a Bachelor of Political Science from the University of Central Florida and an MBA from the University of Florida. In 2019, he was recognized as one of UCF's 30 under 30 young alumni. As Director of Communications at CMCD, Jonathon is tasked with promoting the mission of the District and keeping our community informed on how CMCD is keeping our community safe and comfortable from the threat of mosquitoes.

April 9, 2025

Rick LoCastro
County Commissioner District 1

Rick LoCastro was elected County Commissioner of District 1 (East Naples, Marco Island, Isles of Capri, Port of the Islands, & Goodland) on November 3, 2020. A 1988 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, he served in the Air Force for 24 years and retired as a full Colonel in 2012. He's held positions in NATO, The Pentagon, and worked in 80+ countries. Rick is a former Commander at Andrews Air Force Base supporting Air Force One, was also the base commander of Eglin Air Force Base in Ft. Walton Beach FL... and later returned to the U.S. Air Force Academy (where he was a 1988 graduate) serving as Base Commander there as well. After military retirement he was recruited to Naples as COO of Physicians Regional serving for 4 years and later was a senior executive at Avow Hospice. While in the military, he worked for two Presidents (Bush 41 & Bush 43), for General Schwarzkopf, and was the Aide to an air Force 4-star General for three years. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Air Force Academy and

three Master's degrees. He is also a 2023 Leadership Collier graduate.

May 14, 2025

**Rebecca Mazerowski
Museum Manager**

Rebecca Mazerowski is the Museum Manager of the Marco Island Historical Museum. She has an MFA in Museum Exhibition Planning and Design. She will present on “Marco Before the Mackles”, a brief history of the island that indigenous peoples and early pioneers also found was a paradise.

Reggie Gabriel

March 2025

Golf News



John Laird, Golf Chairman

Cell: 920-366-4652

Email: jglaird64@gmail.com

March Golf News

Spring Scramble:

Our spring scramble event will be held at the Glades Country Club in Naples on Monday, April 28th. It's always a great time with course events, team prizes, raffle and a buffet lunch included. An information flyer with sign-up information will be sent out in mid-March.

2025 South Florida PGA Golf Pass:

Tony Tomassone will once again be coordinating the group purchase of the South Florida PGA Golf Passes which allows you to play at various private country clubs and public courses at greatly reduced rates from May 1st through October 31st. Please be on the lookout for emails from Tony to sign-up for the pass at a reduced rate. Thank you, Tony.

MMC GOLF COORDINATORS WINTER/SPRING 2025

March	Monday	Alan Hoffmann	aishoffmann@gmail.com	239-259-4056
March	Friday	Lou Makris	loumak42@aol.com	781-258-0456
April	Monday	Mark Coyne	markcoyne1020@gmail.com	609-517-1351
April	Friday	Lou Makris	loumak42@aol.com	781-258-0456
May	Monday	OPEN		
May	Friday	OPEN		
June	Monday	OPEN		
June	Friday	Frank Sroka	fsroka74@gmail.com	239-272-4328

Thank you to all our coordinators! Our group would not function without you.

We are in immediate need of coordinators for May and June, so please let me know if you are interested. If no one volunteers to coordinate, you'll be on your own to secure courses and tee-times.

Scorekeeper:

The league would like to thank **Walter Richardson** for taking on the scorekeeping duties for the last year. Walter has informed me he will be retiring at the end of March so we need a new scorekeeper starting in April. Please let me know if you are interested.

We need volunteers to make this golf group function properly. None of the volunteer duties take much time, so please give serious consideration to stepping up and helping out the league and your fellow golfers.

John Laird

2025 MMC THEATER SCHEDULE

Boeing, Boeing Sunday, March 16 ACT(Marco) 3pm

This 1960's French farce adapted for the English-speaking stage features self-styled Parisian lothario Bernard, who has Italian, German, and American fiancées, each a beautiful airline hostess with frequent "layovers." He keeps "one up, one down, and one pending" until unexpected schedule changes bring all three to Paris, and Bernard's apartment, at the same time.

Man of La Mancha Sunday, March 23 Sugden (Naples) 2pm

Man of La Mancha is one of the world's most popular musicals. Inspired by Miguel de Cervantes' 17th-century masterwork *Don Quixote* and set during the Spanish Inquisition, the original 1965 production won five Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Cervantes is in prison awaiting trial during the Spanish Inquisition. He and his fellow prisoners perform a play-within-a-play, telling the story of the elderly Alonso Quijana, who renames himself "Don Quixote" and goes on a quest to right all wrongs in the world. The rousing, Spanish-inflected score includes the classic numbers "The Impossible Dream," "I, Don Quixote," "Dulcinea," "I Really Like Him" and "Little Bird."

Four Old Broads Sunday, April 6 ACT(Marco) 3pm

Retired burlesque queen Beatrice Shelton desperately needs a vacation – and NOT another trip up to Helen, Georgia to see that "precious little German village for the umpteenth time." A Sassy Seniors Cruise through the Caribbean may be just the ticket if she can just convince her best friend, Eaddy Mae Clayton, to stop praying and go with her. Unfortunately, things have not been very pleasant at Magnolia Place Assisted Living since Nurse Pat Jones began working there. The newest resident, Imogene Fletcher, is suddenly losing her memory. Maude Jenkins is obsessed with her favorite soap opera and planning her own funeral. Sam Smith, retired Elvis impersonator, keeps trying to bed every woman in the building. A mystery unfolds with laughter as the gals try to outsmart the evil Nurse Pat Jones and figure out why so many residents have been moved to "the dark side," what exactly IS that mysterious pill, and what happened to Doctor Head? Hilarity ensues as Imogene goes undercover and Maude enters the Miss Magnolia Senior Citizen Pageant to throw Pat off their trail. If they can solve the mystery, they may make it to the cruise ship after all.

Les Miz Saturday, April 19 B.B. Mann (Ft. Myers) 2pm

This brilliant staging has taken the world by storm and has been hailed as "Les Mis for the 21st Century" (*Huffington Post*), "a reborn dream of a production" (*Daily Telegraph*) and "one of the greatest musicals ever created" (*Chicago Tribune*).

Set against the backdrop of 19th century France, *Les Misérables* tells an enthralling story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption – a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit. This epic and uplifting story has become one of the most celebrated musicals in theatrical history.

The magnificent score of *Les Misérables* includes the songs "I Dreamed a Dream," "On My Own," "Bring Him Home," "One Day More," "Master of the House" and many more. Seen by over 130 million people worldwide in 53 countries, 438 cities and 22 languages, *Les Misérables* is undisputedly one of the world's most popular musicals.

Waitress Saturday, April 26 Broadway Palm (Ft. Myers) 11:30 lunch, 1 pm show

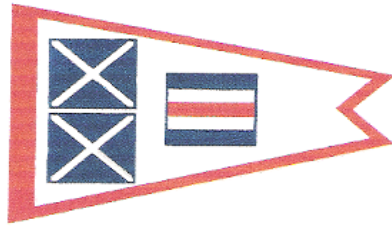
The heartwarming musical of Jenna, a small-town waitress with a talent for baking pies. Trapped in a loveless marriage, Jenna finds solace and strength in her pies and dreams of a better life. When she unexpectedly becomes pregnant, Jenna embarks on a journey of self-discovery, supported by her quirky coworkers and a new doctor in town. With a stirring score by Sara Bareilles, *Waitress* serves up a story of resilience, friendship, and the pursuit of happiness.

Hallelujah Girls May 18, 2025 Sugden (Naples)

2pm

Hilarity abounds when the feisty females of Eden Falls, Georgia, decide to shake up their lives. The action in this rollicking Southern comedy takes place in SPA-DEE-DAH! the abandoned church-turned-day-spa where this group of friends gathers every Friday afternoon. After the loss of a dear friend, the women realize time is precious, and if they're going to change their lives and achieve their dreams, they have to get on it now! But Sugar Lee, their high-spirited, determined leader, has her hands full keeping the women motivated. Carlene's given up on romance, having buried three husbands. Nita's a nervous wreck from running interference between her problematic son and his probation officer. Mavis' marriage is so stagnant she's wondering how she can fake her own death to get out of it. And sweet, simple Crystal entertains them all, singing Christmas carols with her own hilarious lyrics. The comic tension mounts when a sexy ex-boyfriend shows up unexpectedly, a marriage proposal comes from an unlikely suitor and Sugar Lee's archrival vows she'll stop at nothing to steal the spa away from her. By the time the women rally together to overcome these obstacles and launch their new, improved lives, you've got a side-splitting, joyful comedy that will make you laugh out loud and shout "Hallelujah!"

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THE MARCO MEN'S CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Newsletter is published by the Marco Men's Club.
The Board of Directors is the Editorial Board. **March 2025**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Mike Ballenger
President Emeritus: Dave Tobiasz
Senior Vice President: Tom Kramer
Vice President: Don Koppel
Vice President: Rob Reiley
Vice President: Open
Vice President: Open
Secretary: Jerry Defibaugh
Treasurer: Rudi Landwaard

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Membership Chair: Byron Farrell
Hospitality: Don Koppel, Rich Carlsen, Don Lally, Lou Makris
Public Relations: Dave Walsh
Theater Chair: Dave Tobiasz
Golf Chair: John Laird
Sports Chair: Jack Martin
Bocce Coordinator: Rick Johnson
Program Director: Reggie Gabriel
Sergeant-At-Arms: Mike Levine
Sickness/Bereavement Chair: George Vitta
Newsletter Editor/Flyer Gatekeeper: Lou Makris
Constant Contact eBlasts: Les Konkoly
Investment Discussion Club: Don Koppel
Computer/Technology Club: Steve Furlong
Ocean & River Cruise Chair: Bob Bixler
Co-Ed Travel Discussion Group: Bruce Dahlquist
MMC Land Travel Club: Tim Clune/Jerry Poulin
Webmaster: Ed Crane

www.marcomensclub.com

Past Presidents (*indicates deceased):

1992: Paul Kurtzman	1993: Bill Perdichizzi	1994: Harold Penn*	1995: Bob Marks*
1996: George Kuntz*	1997: Alan Wetjen*	1998: George Godfrey*	1999: Jerry Stought*
2000: Jerry Stought*	2001: Ned Wright*	2002: Al Bozzo	2003: Ken Molander*
2004: Bob Gaffney	2005: Wayne Boose	2006: Tom Traeger*	2007: Joe Cassidy*
2008: Fred Stavola	2009: Joe Varano	2010: Bill Sullivan	2011: Sam Miloro
2012: Randle Grossman*	2013: Jack DeHanas*	2014: John Superits	2015: Warren Dettinger*
2016: Dan Flynn	2017: Silky Sullivan	2018: Bill Rogers	2019: Jeff Dywan
2020: Jerry Swiacki	2021: Jerry Swiacki	2022: Warren Uhl	2023: Dave Tobiasz
2024: Mike Ballenger			

[NEWSLETTER EDITED BY LOU MAKRIS](#)

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